

Amendment No. 1 to SB1313

Gresham
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1313*

House Bill No. 1865

by adding the following language as a preamble to the bill before the enacting clause:

Whereas, students from disadvantaged backgrounds often lack teachers as role models who can understand their particular situations in life and their learning needs; and

Whereas, this underrepresentation of teachers from disadvantaged backgrounds can only be remedied by encouraging students from disadvantaged backgrounds to consider and make teaching their career; and

Whereas such students need support and encouragement to dream of being professional educators when such career often may seem beyond their limited means and circumstances to achieve; and

Whereas, the federal TRiO programs through Upward Bound projects serve high school students from low-income families and high school students from families in which the parent or parents do not hold a bachelor's degree; and

Whereas, Upward Bound projects must provide instruction in math, laboratory science, composition, literature, and foreign language and also incorporate other services, one of which may be work study positions targeted to exposing Upward Bound participants to careers requiring a postsecondary degree; and

Whereas, Upward Bound projects are presently in place at six public institutions of higher education in Tennessee, including Tennessee State University; now, therefore, AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1.

(a) A pilot project that introduces students from disadvantaged backgrounds to teaching in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve (pre-K-12) as a career shall be conducted at Tennessee State University (TSU). Such project shall include a service learning or work study component. Such project shall be incorporated in the Upward Bound project of the federally funded TRiO program operating at TSU; provided, that such pilot project complies with federal statutes, regulations, guidelines and other requirements governing the TRiO program. Such pilot project shall be conducted during all remaining years of funding for the present TRiO program and if the TSU TRiO program receives federal funding for additional years beyond those already granted funding, such pilot project shall be extended to include the additional years so funded; provided, that such pilot project complies with federal statutes, regulations, guidelines and other requirements governing the TRiO program in effect during any year of funding.

(b) Beginning with the school year that the first participants in the pilot project enter college and each year thereafter, TSU shall examine whether such students enter college with the intention of becoming teachers in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve (pre-K-12) at a higher rate than other similarly situated students participating in the Upward Bound project of the TRiO program. At the end of the fourth school year after the first participants in the pilot project enter college, TSU shall examine whether students in the pilot project enter the teaching profession in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve (pre-K-12) at a greater rate than other similarly situated students participating in the Upward Bound project. TSU shall also collect all other data found to be relevant to a rigorous evaluation of the pilot project.

(c) For the school year in which collection of data begins and each school year thereafter, TSU shall report its findings and conclusions concerning the pilot project to the education committee of the house of representatives and

the education committee of the senate. The annual report for a school year shall be filed by December 31 immediately following the end of a school year.

(d) The department of education, within existing resources, shall provide advice, assistance and support to TSU and its Upward Bound project in design and implementation of the service learning component of the pilot project.

(e) The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga shall assist, using expertise that it has gained in operating the governor's school for prospective teachers and within existing resources, TSU's Upward Bound project in the design of an appropriate summer service learning module for participants in the pilot project.

(f) LEAs within the target area for TSU's Upward Bound project are urged to identify and provide service learning opportunities, including, but not limited to peer tutoring, that will expose interested pilot project participants to teaching in pre-kindergarten to grade twelve (pre-K-12) as a career.

(g) The Tennessee Education Association and its members are encouraged to facilitate the service learning component of the Upward Bound project by creating a chapter of Future Teachers of America, if no chapter exists, in a high school in which participants in the pilot project are enrolled, and by creating and supporting extracurricular activities for prospective teachers through chapters of Future Teachers of America in high schools in which participants of the pilot project are enrolled.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.